

Maintenance of Bodh Gaya

4405. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Times of India on 17th January, 2001 under the caption "Bodh Gaya neglected: UNESCO";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to address the problems raised in the news-item in order to ensure proper maintenance of Bodh Gaya as a seat of cultural and religious hertiage of India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The UNESCO expert visited Bodh Gaya to assess the case for being considered as a World Heritage Site and his report in this regard is not yet available to the Government of India. The maintenance of Maha Bodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya however is looked after by the Temple Management Committee which has the "District Magistrate of Gaya as its Chairman."

Poor stationery used in Government Offices

4406. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "poor stationery obliterating records" appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 16th February, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the points brought out in the news-item and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the measures taken to ensure that BIS approved paper and ink is sold to the Government Departments by the approved agencies; and

(d) the policy of Government in making purchases of branded items from the reputed manufactures or their authorised distributors or through tender?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The news-item has drawn the attention towards the use of poor quality stationery items *i.e.* paper and ink in the Government Departments which would have deteriorating effect on the preservation of public records. The Government is seized of the problem and has already issued guidelines to various Ministries/Departments of Government of India for using BIS marked paper and ink for creating records of permanent nature.

(c) National Archives of India requested the Kendriya Bhandar & Super Bazar to procure good quality paper of BIS (ISI) mark so that the same could be procured by the Ministries/Departments in creating records of permanent nature.

(d) Stationery items are procured through Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar which are authorized distributors for stationery items.

Majuli Tourism Resort Project

4407. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 343 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th April, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Majuli Tourism Resort Project has so far been received;

(b) if so, details thereof, indicating phase-wise amount allocated and sanctioned for implementation;

(c) whether the implementing agency has been finalized; and

(d) when the actual project construction is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10.00